

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
first storing means for storing image data;  
judging means for dividing said image data stored in said first storing means into a plurality of blocks and making judgment upon whether all pixels are white in accordance with each of said divided blocks;  
rotation processing means for performing rotation processing of image data of a block when it is determined that not all pixels in said block are white by said judging means;  
controlling means for controlling to omit rotation processing of image data of a block when it is determined that all pixels are white in said block by said judging means;  
compressing means for compressing image data of a block which skips rotation processing by said controlling means such that a virtual white line is used as a reference line or image data of a block subjected to rotation processing by said rotation processing means such that a line immediately preceding the block is used as the reference line, and for determining resulting data as code data; and  
second storing means for storing said code data compressed by said compressing means.
2. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first storing means and said second storing means are provided for a page memory.
3. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judging means divides image data into blocks in units of a plurality of lines in said image data.

4. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judging means divides image data into a plurality of blocks in units of 32-bit lines in said image data.

5. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rotation processing means carries out rotation processing in units of one cell with  $n$  bits  $\times$   $n$  bits constituting a block being determined as one cell.

6. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rotation processing means performs rotation processing in units of one cell with 32 bits  $\times$  32 bits constituting a block being determined as one cell.

7. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rotation processing means carries out rotation processing of 270 degrees in the clockwise direction in units of one cell with  $n$  bits  $\times$   $n$  bits constituting a block being determined as one cell.

8. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rotation processing means performs rotation processing of 270 degrees in the clockwise direction in units of one cell with 32 bits  $\times$  32 bits constituting a block being determined as one cell.

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controlling means is a controller for controlling a page memory to which said first storing means and said second storing means are provided.

10. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said compressing means performs compression using a Modified Modified READ Code.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
first storing means for storing image data;

judging means for dividing said image data stored in said first storing means into a plurality of blocks and making judgment upon whether all pixels are white in accordance with each of said divided blocks;

rotation processing means for performing rotation processing of image data of a block when it is determined that not all pixels in said block are white by said judging means;

second storing means for storing image data of a block subjected to rotation processing by said rotation processing means;

controlling means for controlling to omit rotation processing of image data of a block when it is determined that all pixels in said block are white by said judging means;

compressing means for compressing image data of a block which skips rotation processing by said controlling means such that a virtual white line is used as a reference line or image data of a block stored in said second storing means such that a line immediately preceding the block is used as the reference line, and for determining resulting data as code data; and

third storing means for storing said code data compressed by said compressing means.

12. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first storing means, said second storing means and said third storing means are provided for a page memory.

13. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus which has compressing means for compressing image data and forms an image, said image forming apparatus comprising:

first storing means for storing image data;

judging means for dividing image data stored in said first storing means into a plurality of blocks, performing bit retrieval in accordance with each of said divided blocks, and making judgment upon whether all pixels of each of said blocks are white;

rotation processing means for performing rotation processing of image data of a block when it ~~which~~ is determined that not all pixels thereof are white by said judging means;

second storing means for storing image data of a block subjected to rotation processing by said rotation processing means;

first controlling means for performing bit retrieval of image data of a block stored in said second storing means, compressing said image data by said compressing means such that a line immediately preceding the block is used as a reference line, and for determining resulting data as code data;

second controlling means for compressing by said compressing means image data of a block when it is determined that all pixels thereof are white by said judging means such that a virtual white line is used as the reference line, and for determining resulting data as code data; and

third storing means for storing said code data controlled and compressed by said first controlling means or said code data controlled and compressed by said second controlling means.

14. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first storing means, said second storing means and said third storing means are provided for a page memory.

15. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first controlling means and said second controlling means are controllers for controlling a page memory to which said first storing means, said second controlling means and said third storing means are provided.